REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to delete multiple claims dependencies and to add new claims directed to preferred embodiments of the invention.

A marked-up version of the present claim amendments is attached hereto.

The foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter into the present application and, therefore, should be entered without objection.

Early and favorable consideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

8. (Amended) A variant peptide which is a variant of a fragment according to claim 5 [or claim 6], which variant has one or two amino acid substitutions, insertions or deletions with respect to said fragment wherein the variant peptide is capable of modulating a fibrin fragment E activity.

10. (Amended) A peptide [or fragment] according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 9], wherein said activity is stimulation of cell proliferation or angiogenesis.

11. (Amended) A fusion peptide which comprises a first portion having the amino acid sequence of a peptide [or fragment defined in] according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 10] and a second portion, attached to the N- or C-terminus of the first portion, which comprises a sequence of amino acids not naturally contiguous to the first portion, said second portion comprising a membrane translocation sequence.

12. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding.a peptide [or fragment] according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1.

13. (Amended) An antibody or binding fragment capable of selectively binding to a peptide [or fragment] according to [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 15 [or claim 16] further comprising the step of testing the ability of the modulator to modulate at least one of fibrin fragment E induced cell proliferation and [/or] angiogenesis.

18. (Amended) A process for producing a modulator comprising the step of identifying the modulator according to the method of [any one of claims 15, 16 or 17] claim 15.

19. (Amended) A modulator of fibrin fragment E activity identified by the method according to [any one of claims 15, 16

or 17] claim 15.

21. (Amended) A composition comprising a peptide [or fragment thereof] according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 11 or a modulator according to claim 19] in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

22. (Amended) A coronary stent comprising a peptide [or fragment thereof] according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 11, a modulator according to claim 19 or a composition according to claim 21].

23. (Amended) A method of inhibiting stimulation of cell proliferation induced by fibrin fragment E comprising bringing the cell into contact with a peptide according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 11, a modulator according to claim 19 or a composition according to claim 21].

29. (Amended) A nucleic acid primer consisting essentially of a sequence of between about 15 to 50 nucleotides encoding a peptide according to claim 1 [any one of claims 1 to 11].